

Readers Pick Up the Cause of

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Traffic in the Wychwoods

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In our last edition, Dr Wilson explained why he is increasingly concerned about the traffic speeding through our villages; greatly exceeding the established 30 mile an hour limits. He raised the issues of noise, safety and pollution, as well as the threat to our quality of life in the Wychwoods. Two more Readers now share their concerns.

From John and Aelfthryth Gittings:

In reply to the publication of Dr Wilson's letter, we would like very much to support a local pressure group to tackle the traffic problem. The excessive speed of traffic coming through Shipton can be gauged easily if one drives through the village observing the correct speed limit; at busy times a queue will quickly build up behind. The A361 as a whole is a very dangerous road and more rigorous controls in Shipton and in other villages on its route should help to reduce the overall speed (and its attractiveness as a rat-run). A Wychwoods' campaign could usefully co-operate with the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership, which has issued a Route Alert for the section Chipping Norton to Burford.

We need a much more visible array of traffic calming measures to encourage more careful and considerate behaviour. Excessive speed poses a clear safety risk to pedestrians and cyclists as well as to other drivers and also causes unacceptable noise pollution.

Clearly expert judgement is needed to assess which measures are most appropriate but we are sure that all residents would co-operate with any measures which will benefit the whole community even if they may add a few more seconds to local journey times.

From Adam Wolford:

I read with interest the article in the recent Wychwood magazine regarding heavy traffic through the village and the prospect of a pressure group to get the situation remedied.

I would be more than happy to join any such group that does something to change the current situation. I too believe that the number of HGV's and other heavy vehicles that speed through Shipton and the other villages are wholly inappropriate for the size of the roads and the environmental impact they have upon residents and the historic buildings in these villages must far outweigh the advantages that come from using these "back routes" rather than roads such as the A44 and A40.

The Wychwood Magazine gave visitors to our stand at the Shipton Fete the opportunity to record their comments on road traffic. Please turn to Page 13 for just some of your concerns. **Editor**